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AN OCCASIONAL ORATORIO.

Written by GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL, Esq.

PART the FIRST.

RECITATIVE *accompanied.*

JEHOVAH Lord! how great how wond'rous great,
How glorious is thy name through all the earth!
When I behold the heavens, thy finger's art,
The moon, and ſtars which thou ſo bright haſt ſet
In the pure firmament, then ſaith my heart,
And what is man, that thou remember'ſt him!

AIR.

Lord God of Hoſts, to whom the pray'r
Of contrite ſouls is dear;
Thou God, our ſhield, propitious prove,
And thy anointed hear;
For in thy courts one day to be,
Is better, and more bleſt,
Than in the joys of vanity
A thouſand days at beſt.

RECITATIVE.

The higheſt, who in Heaven doth dwell,
Shall laugh to ſcorn his enemies,
The Lord ſhall ſpeak to them in his wrath,
And in his fell and fierce ire trouble them.
For I (ſaith He) have anointed him my king;
My choſen king, on Sion's holy hill.

AIR.

Fly from the threat'ning vengeance, fly;
Ere it is too late
Avoid your fate,
The bolt once thrown, ye ſurely die;
Put not your truſt
In the unjuſt,
Who lift their heads ſo high.
Fly from, &c. *Da capo.*

RECITATIVE *accompanied.*

Humbled with fear, and awful reverence,
Before the foot-ſtool of his Majeſty,
Throw thyſelf down with trembling innocence.
Nor dare to caſt thy weak, thy dazzled eye,
On the dread face of that great Deity,
For fear, leſt if he chance to look at thee,
Thou turn to nought, and quite confounded be.

AIR.

His ſceptre is the rod of righteouſneſs,
With which he bruiſes all his foes to duſt,
And the great dragon ſtrongly doth repreſs
Under the rigor of his judgment juſt.
His ſeat is truth, to which the faithful truſt;
From whence proceed her beams ſo pure and bright,
That all about him ſheddeth glorious Light.
His ſcepter is the rod of righteouſneſs,
With which he bruiſeth all his foes to duſt.

AIR.

Be wiſe at length, ye kings averſe,
Be taught, ye judges of the earth,
With fear Jehovah ſerve.

CHORUS.

Be wiſe at length, ye kings averſe,
Be taught, ye judges of the earth,
With fear Jehovah ſerve: or brought full low,
With iron ſceptre bruis'd, and then diſpers'd,
Scatter'd like ſheep, ye periſh in your way.

RECITATIVE.

Of many millions the populous rout,
I fear not, tho' incamping round about
They pitch their tents againſt me,
My God will riſe, my help is in the Lord.

AIR.

Jehovah is my ſhield, my glory;
Him thro' my ſtory
Th' exalter of my head I count;
Aloud I cry'd,
He ſoon reply'd,
And heard me from his holy mount:
I lay and ſlept, and wak'd again,
The Lord himſelf did me ſuſtain.
Jehovah is my ſhield, &c. *Da capo.*

RECITATIVE.

Madmen or fools ſtand not within thy ſight,
All workers of iniquity thou hat'ſt,
And them, unbleſt, thou wilt deſtroy;
The bloody and guileful man thou doſt deteſt.
Let thankful man obedient bow the head;
And in loud anthems celebrate thy name.

ANTHEM.

CHORUS.

Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth,
O ſing praiſes unto his name.
Solo. Bleſſed are all they that fear the Lord;
O well is thee and happy ſhalt thou be.
Accomp. Bleſſed be the Lord God of Iſrael from everlaſting to everlaſting!

CHORUS.

And let all the people say, Amen. Hallelujah. Amen.

Praiſe ye the Lord; bleſſed be the Lord, From everlaſting to everlaſting, Amen, Hallelujah. Amen.

PART the SECOND.

AIR.

O Liberty! thou goddeſs bright,
Profuſe of bliſs and ſweet delight;
Eternal pleaſures with thee reign,
And plenty leads thy ſmiling train;
Thou mak'ſt the face of nature gay,
And giv'ſt freſh beauty to the day.

RECITATIVE.

Methinks prophetick viſions from above
Deſcend upon me, Britain's better days
Break forth at once, a long and ſhining train.

AIR.

War with ſullen ſteps retiring,
Peace returns, delight inſpiring,
Art and nature both befriending,
Death, and all his horrors, ending;
Raiſe to peace the joyful ſong,
Fields again with harveſts waving,
Streams unſtain'd the meadows laving,
Give us plenty, health, and pleaſure,
Blameleſs pride, and rightful treaſure;
Let thy reign, O peace! be long.

CHORUS.

May God, from whom all mercies ſpring,
Bleſs the true church, and ſave the king!
With firm united hearts we all
Will conquer in his cauſe, or fall.
May God, &c. *Da capo.*

RECITATIVE.

The Lord hath heard my pray'r,
Mine enemies ſhall all be blank and daſh'd
With much confuſion; then grown red with ſhame,
They ſhall return in haſte the way they came,
And in a moment ſhall be quite abaſh'd.

AIR.

God is my ſtrength, my treaſure,
Peace dwells with him, and pleaſure,
Safe are his holy ways;
What foe ſhould virtue fear?
She needs nor ſhield, nor ſpear,
The Lord, her help, is near,
Reſoud Jehovah's praiſe.

CHORUS.

All his mercies ſhall endure,
Ever faithful, ever ſure.

AIR.

Why, ah why, do mortals erring,
Ev'ry danger too thoughtleſs incurring,
Good refuſe, and ill preferring,
Leave the paths of righteouſneſs?
"Running thus to certain ruin,
"Fools, what is it you're purſuing,
"Laſting pain through tranſient bliſs."

DUET.

After long ſtorms and tempeſt overblown,
The ſun, at length, his joyful face doth clear;
Thus after fortune's rage is ſhown,
A bliſsful hour at laſt is known,
Elſe would afflicted man deſpair. *Da capo.*

RECITATIVE.

To God, our ſtrength, ſing loud and clear,
Sing loud to God our king;
To Jacob's God, that all may hear,
Loud acclamations ring.

AIR.

Prepare the hymn, prepare the ſong,
The timbrel hither bring;
The chearful pſaltry bring along,
And harp with pleaſant ſtring.

CHORUS.

Prepare the hymn, prepare the ſong,
The timbrel hither bring;
The chearful pſaltry bring along,
And harp with pleaſant ſtring.

AIR.

Tell me, ye ſtarry hoſt,
What are the rays ye boaſt;
Whence do your glories take their riſe?
Father! the work is thine,
Thou giv'ſt their orbs to ſhine,
Sun, moon, and ſtars thro' thee illume the earth, and ſkies.
God is the father, He
Light of the world muſt be;
Or dark, for ever dark, wou'd wretched man remain,
In his paternal love,
His creatures live, and move,
He is the life and light, all without him were vain.
Da capo.

CHORUS.

Hallelujah, your voices raiſe,
Jehovah, Lord of hoſts, to praiſe. *Hallelujah.*

PART the THIRD.

CHORUS.

I WILL ſing unto the Lord,
For he hath triumph'd glorioufly,
The horſe and his rider hath he thrown into the ſea.

AIR.

Thou ſhalt bring them in, and plant them in
The mountain of thine inheritance, in the place,
O Lord, which thou haſt made for thee to dwell in,
In the ſanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have eſtabliſhed.

CHORUS.

Who is like unto thee, O Lord, amongſt the Gods?
Who is like thee? glorious in holineſs!
Fearful in praiſes! doing wonders!

AIR.

The Lord doth great and mighty things
For righteous nations, righteous kings;
But bends his bow, and whets his ſword
'Gainſt all who ſcorn his ſacred word.

CHORUS.

He gave th' Egyptians ſtorms for rain.

CHORUS.

He gave them hail-ſtones for rain,
Fire mingled with the hail ran along upon the ground.

AIR.

When war'like enſigns wave on high,
And trumpets pierce the vaulted ſky,
The frighted peaſant ſees his field,
For corn, an iron harveſt yield.

No pasture on the plain appears,
And rural joys are chang'd to tears;
Be calm, and Heav'n will soon dispose
To future good our present woes.

RECITATIVE.

And see the mystick essence now descends,
Spirit of peace, while from his wings he shakes
The healing dew of concord; lo! where late
The raven snuff'd his prey, and the fierce tide
Of war laid desolate; the olive rears
His verdant branches; and the gentle dove
Coos to its mate; blest be the sacred voice,
That cry'd to devastation, hold! that wrested
The sword from mad ambition, and conferr'd
The blessings of tranquillity and safety
Upon the harrass'd world.

AIR.

Glorious victors, who, subduing,
Seek not fame from boundless ruin,
But with conquest mercy blend——
Cease, ye nations, cease your quarrels,
What are trophies, what are laurels?
Peace can nobler honours lend.

CHORUS.

Millions unborn shall bless the hand,
That gave deliv'rance to the land.

AIR.

Calm peace appearing,
Each prospect clearing,
New lustre paints the sky,
All clouds before her fly.
O peace! thou star divine,
With influence benign,
Long may thy glory shine!

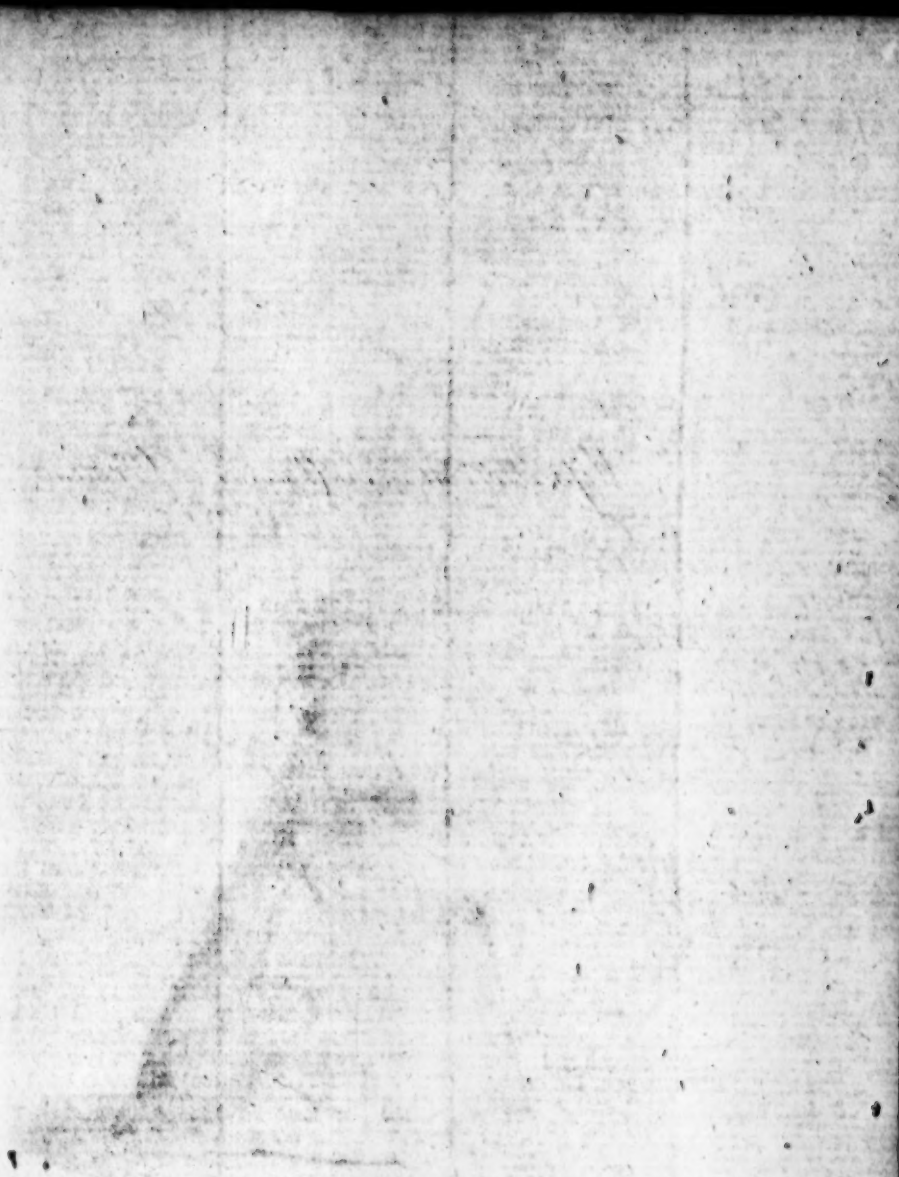
DUET *.

Let Cæsar and Urania live!
Let all delights the stars can give,
Upon the royal pair descend!
Let discord to the shades be driv'n!
While earth and sky our songs attend,
And thus our loyal vows ascend,
O! preserve 'em Heav'n!

ANTHEM.

Blessed are all they that fear the Lord:
God save the king!
Long live the king!
May the king live for ever! Hallelujah! Amen.

* By Purcell.



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